

Message Text

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E:RSORENSEN (SUBS)

ARA/ECP:RTAYLOR (DRAFT)

EB/ODF:FTTHOMAS (DRAFT)

EUR/RPE:ACALBRECHT (DRAFT)

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SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN APPLICATION FOR OECD MEMBERSHIP

REF: OECD PARIS 26924, BOGOTA 9437, STATE 231184,
OECD PARIS 27353

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE DATED SEPTEMBER 17 TO
SECRETARY FROM COLOMBIAN CHARGE DAVILA: QUOTE

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EXCELLENCY:

THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, CONSIDERING THIS ASSOCIATION AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF COMMUNICATING ECONOMIC POLICIES BETWEEN ADVANCED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OBTAINED THROUGH DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS OF AUTHENTIC POPULAR REPRESENTATION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS CONSTITUTION AND RULE OF LAW THROUGHOUT MOST OF ITS HISTORY, AS WELL AS AMONG (SIC) A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY THAT HAS REACHED A RELATIVELY ADVANCED STAGE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS.

COLOMBIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE O.E.C.D. COULD BE USED TO GREAT ADVANTAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY, AS IT REGARDS OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS.

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM MY GOVERNMENT I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THROUGH YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA TO THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE O.E.C.D. IN PARIS.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS AS TO WHAT LIES BEHIND THE COLOMBIAN APPLICATION: (1) WHAT DOES GOC HOPE TO GET OUT OF OECD MEMBERSHIP? (2) WE WONDER WHY GOC IS PRESSING AHEAD WITH FORMAL APPLICATION DESPITE SECGEN VAN LENNEP'S STATEMENT IN JULY THAT HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF COLOMBIAN MEMBERSHIP. (3) WHY THE URGENT LETTER TO SECRETARY SIMON ONLY ONE DAY BEFORE MEETING OF OECD HEADS OF DELEGATION, WITH NO APPARENT ATTEMPT TO LAY GROUNDWORK OR INFORM US IN ADVANCE THAT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL APPROACH WOULD BE MADE? (4) HOW WILL BOTERO AND/OR GOC REACT TO USG REFUSAL TO BACK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION? (5) WILL COLOMBIA BE MORE LIKELY TO ALIGN MORE CLOSELY WITH G-77 ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES? (6) DOES THIS MOVE HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO? (IN A WAY LIEVANO'S TRADE PROPOSALS EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHICH CALLED FOR A LOME-LIKE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND U.S., COULD BE VIEWED AS INCONSISTENT WITH OECD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.) (7) HAS GOC CONSULTED WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ON

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THIS MATTER, AND WOULD IT ANTICIPATE THEIR INTEREST IN JOINING OECD ALSO? (8) WHAT ARE BOTERO'S PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS, IF ANY? (9) SINCE MEMBERSHIP IS NOT IN THE CARDS, WHAT SORT OF CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT MEET GOC NEEDS?

3. A BROADER ANALYSIS OF HOW THE OECD APPLICATION FITS IN WITH GOC'S FOREIGN POLICY WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN PLACING THIS MOVE IN CONTEXT AND ASSESSING IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERESTS.

4. WHILE WE CANNOT SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP FOR COLOMBIA IN OECD, WE DO NOT WISH TO MINIMIZE THE RELEVANCE OF THE APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES WITH REGARD TO LATIN AMERICA AND NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS IN GENERAL. IN FACT, WE VIEW GOC'S APPLICATION AS AN INDICATION OF A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE.

5. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH BOTERO DURING MORNING OR AT LUNCH SEPTEMBER 30; FOLLOWING DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY/FMD CONSULTATIONS; PLEASE INFORM BOTERO AND ADVISE. YOU SHOULD ALSO ADVISE BOTERO OF WILLINGNESS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO IMF/IBRD MEETINGS IN MANILA TO DISCUSS, AS PER STATE 231184.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY SOONEST, AND NOT LATER THAN COB SEPTEMBER 22, IN ORDER THAT IT CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN REPLYING TO BOTERO'S LETTER AND CHARGE DAVILA'S NOTE, AND IN PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER 25 OECD HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING. ROBINSON

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